

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01 GSA-01 INT-05 /096 W

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R 241440Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0451

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN GV AG EG KU SA LY RO

SUBJECT: NEW BAUXITE MINING CONSORTIUM FORMED

1. ON JAN 15 IN CONAKRY GOG INITIALLED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYA, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BAUXITE PROJECT IN NORTHWEST GUINEA. ACCORDING SOME REPORTS, ALGERIA ALSO PARTICIPATED. LOCATION WOULD BE AT AYAKOYE, NORTH OF CBG CONCESSION AT BOKE. EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS ESTIMATED TO REACH BETWEEN 800 MILLION (CBG ESTIMATE) TO 1.3 BILLION DOLLARS (EGYPTIAN ESTIMATE), INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE. AIM WOULD BE EVENTUALLY TO PRODUCE NINE RPT NINE MILLION TONS BAUXITE A YEAR. OF THIS TOTAL FIVE MILLION TONS WOULD BE FOR EXPORT, AND THE BALANCE FOR CONVERSION TO TWO MILLION TONS ALUMINA.

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2. NEW JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT BEING STUDIED BY GOG AND

FOREIGN PARTNERS. IF ALL ACCEPT AGREEMENT AS INITIALLED,
FINAL SIGNING CEREMONY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FEB 22 IN
CAIRO.

3. FULL DETAILS STILL UNAVAILABLE HERE. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
CLAIMS THAT IT HAS NOT SEEN COPY OF PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT,
THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY THEIR DELEGATION. ALTHOUGH
COST HIGH, FINANCING APPARENTLY AVAILABLE. EGYPTIAN
CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE PRIMARILY TECHNICIANS. CONSORTIUM IS
LOOKING FOR COMPETENT FIRM TO DO COMPLETE FEASIBILITY STUDY
AND DESIGN WORK. US FIRM (ALCOA) INTERESTED, AND REPORTEDLY
BELIEVES IT HAS GOOD CHANCE TO GET CONTRACT.

4. GOG VERY INTERESTED IN TRANSFORMATION OF BAUXITE TO ALUMINA
WITHIN GUINEA. ARAB PARTNERS ON OTHER HAND REPORTEDLY QUESTION
PROFITABILITY OF PROCESSING INTO ALUMINA BECAUSE OF COSTLY
IMPORTS OF FUEL OIL AND SOME RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED. THIS
PROJECT ALSO DEPENDS ON CONSTRUCTION OF LONG STUDIED, LARGE
AND EXPENSIVE KONKOURE DAM. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TELLS US THAT
THEIR GOVERNMENT STILL HAS MANY TECHNICAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS
TO CLARIFY BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.

5. EFFECT OF THIS NEW PROJECT ON ANOTHER PROPOSED ROMANIAN
BAUXITE/ALUMINA OPERATION IN SAME AREA IS NOT YET CLEAR. ROMANIANS
PARTICIPATED IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS IN CONAKRY, BUT DID NOT
(OR WERE NOT ASKED TO) INITIAL THE AGREEMENT. PRESIDENT TOURE
TOLD AMBASSADOR, BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE, THAT NEW PROJECT
SEPARATE FROM ROMANIAN OPERATION.
MACDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, MINING INDUSTRY, CONSORTIUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CONAKR00117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750027-0796
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750124/aaaaausi.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW BAUXITE MINING CONSORTIUM FORMED
TAGS: EMIN, GV, AG, EG, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006